

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02540 112242Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O 112203Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0573
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LGGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LONDON 2540

USIAC

USIA FOR IEU/, IAA, IPS

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR' YOUNG'S RETURN TO LONDON:
PRESS COMMENTS BY AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND IVOR
RICHARD, US EMBASSY LONDON,
FEBRUARY 11, 1977

QUESTION: MR. YOUNG, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE BRITAIN
TAKE A NEW INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA?

AMB YOUNG: WELL, I REALLY DON'T MAKE DECISIONS
FOR BRITAIN. I WAS HERE TO SHARE THE IMPRESSIONS THAT WE
RECEIVED WITH AMB RICHARD AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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PAGE 02 LONDON 02540 112242Z

SCHAUFEL OF OUR AFRICA DESK AND A GROUP OF US. AND
I THINK THRE IS JUST SO MUCH HAPPENING, IT IS GOING
TO TAKE US A LITTLE WHILE TO LET IT ALL FALL IN PLACE.

QUESTION: CAN YOU GIVE US AN INDICATION OF WHERE YOU GO
FROM HERE, GENTLEMEN?

AMB IVOR RICHARD: WELL, AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG JUST SAID I THINK THE PURPOSE OF THIS DISCUSSION WAS SO THAT WE COULD SO TO SPEAK DUPLICATE THE ONE THAT HE WENT THROUGH LAST WEEK WHICH WAS HAVING TO LISTEN TO ME GIVE MY IMPRESSIONS-- MY SHUTTLE ROUND AFRICA -- AND I WAS VERY GRATEFUL NOW TO BE IN THE POSITION OF RETURNING IT AND LISTENING TO HIM GIVE HIS.

QUESTIN: WILL THERE BE SOME FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS?

AMBASSADOR RICHARD: OH YES, INDEED, A GREAT DEAL I SHOULD THINK, BOTH IN NEW YORK AND I ASSUME IN OUR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.

QUESTION: SO NEITHER OF YOU THEN ANTICIPATE A NEW INITIATIVE BEING TAKEN WITHIN THE NEXT...

AMBASSADOR YOUNG: 24 HOURS, NO (LAUGHTER).

QUESTION :WEEKS?

AMBASSADOR RICHARD: NOTHING DRAMATIC IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

QUESTION: BUT YOU ARE STILL OPTIMISTIC?

AMBASSADOR YOUNG: OH I AM, ALWAYS.

AMB RICHARD: IT'S A VERY DANGEROUS QUESTION. YOU SEE, EVERY TIME I CAME OUT AT GENEVA, OUT OF THE PALAIS, SOMEBODY WOULD SAY: " ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC?" AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 02540 112242Z

IF I SAID: "YES," THEY WOULD SAY: "NOW LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM TODAY," AND IF YOU SAID: "NO," THE HEADLINE WOULD BE "GLOOM DESCENDS UPON THE BRITISH DELEGATION". I AM NEITHER OPTIMISTIC NOR PESSIMISTIC, BUT HOPEFUL.

QUESTION: ARE WE ANY NEARER TO THE RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS?

AMBASSADOR YOUNG: WELL, LET'S SAY, I DONT KNOW WHETHER AMB RICHARD AGREES WITH THIS -- I DONT THINK NEGOTIATIONS EVER HAVE STOPPED. THEY PAUSED IN GENEVA, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN A CONSTANT ROUND OF TALKS GOING ON IN MAJOR CAPITALS INVOLVED IN AFRICA, AND THOSE TALKS, I THINK, HAVE ALL BEEN FRUITFUL. MY TRIP -- YOU KNOW, TWELVE DAYS -- TALKING WITH A DOZEN OR MORE PRESIDENTS INDICATED TO ME THAT THEY WERE NOT TALKING TO EACH OTHER VERY MUCH. THEY ARE TALKING A LITTLE MORE NOW, AND I THINK THAT NEGOTIATIONS TAKE

TIME, A CONSENSUS IS NOT FORCED, IT HAS TO BE ALLOWED TO GROW AND EMERGE AND I THINK THAT THAT AS HAPPENING. WHEN IT WILL GET TO THE POINT WHERE WE CAN DO SOMETHING FORMALLY ABOUT, IT, I DON'T THINK WE CAN SAY.

QUESTION: YOU DIDN'T SEE MR. VORSTER OR MR. SMITH, WHY WAS THAT?

AMB YOUNG I WAS INVITED BY PRESIDENT NYEERE AND BY THE HEAD OF STATE OB SANJO TO TWO PARTICULAR POLITICAL AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS, AND THERE HAPPENED TO BE PRESENT A TOTAL OF ABOUT 25 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED FORMALLY BY THEIR HEADS OF STATE OR FOREIGN MINISTERS. I WENT TO GET ACQUAINTED, TO LISTEN AND BECAUSE THESE ARE PEOPLE THAT I WILL HAVE TO WORK WITH AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN MANY WAYS. MY TRIP WAS NEVER SEEN PRIMARILY AS A DUPLICATION OF AMB RICHARD'S TRIP.

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PAGE 04 LONDON 02540 112242Z

INCIDENTALLY, EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT RHODESIA AND NAMBIA, BUT PRIMARILY, I THINK I WAS THERE IN CONNECTION WITH MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS AMBASSAOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

THANK YOU ARMSTRONG

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